

MASTER OF
KUNG FU

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™



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THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI,

MASTER OF KUNG FU™



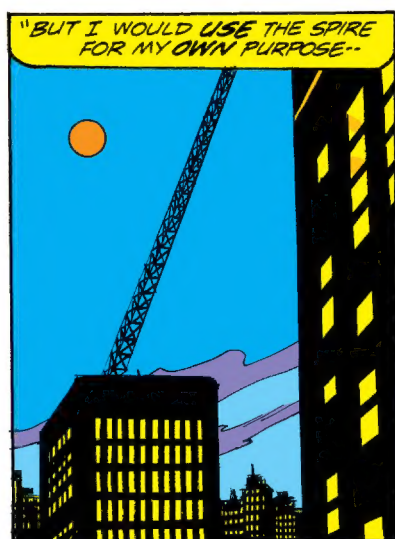
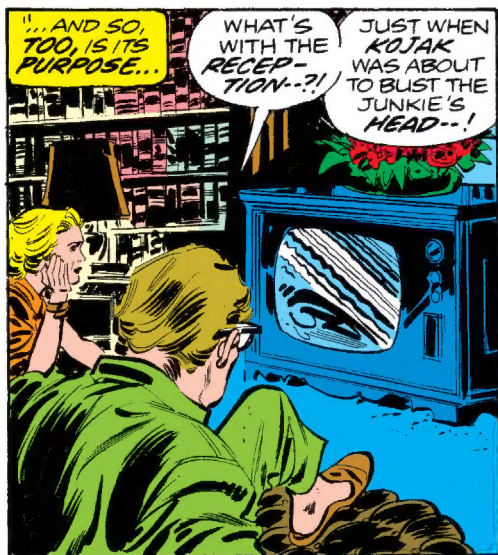
"Call me Shang-Chi, as my *father* did, when he raised me and molded my mind and my body in the vacuum of his Honan, China retreat. I learned many things from my father: That my name means "The Rising and Advancing of a Spirit," that my body could be forged into a living weapon through the discipline of kung fu, and that it might be used for the murder of a man called Dr. Petrie.

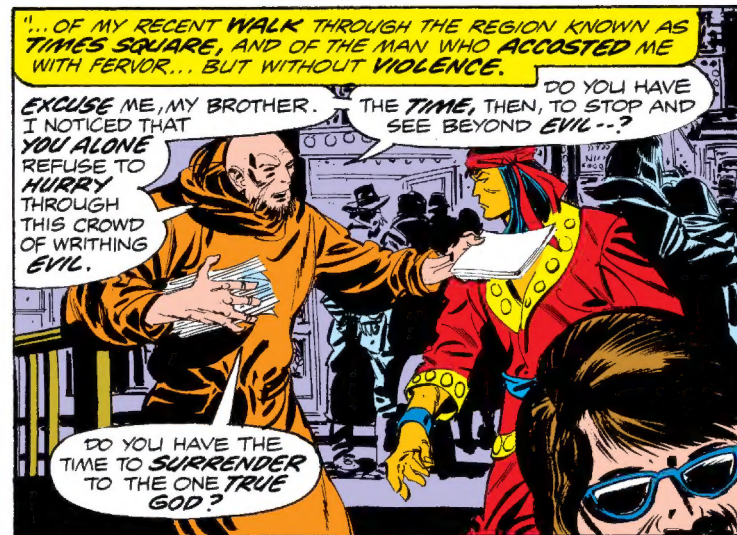
"Since then, I have learned that my father is **Dr. Fu Manchu** the most insidiously evil man on earth... and that to *honor* him would bring nothing but *dishonor* to the spirit of my *name*."

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **MASTER OF KUNG FU!** TM

DOUG MOENCH / JOHN BUSCEMA / FRANK SPRINGER / JOHN COSTANZA, letterer / LEN WEIN
WRITER ARTIST INKER / JANICE COHEN, colorist EDITOR









"I SPUN TO THE HISSED SOUND--

AGK-K!!

SHEK!

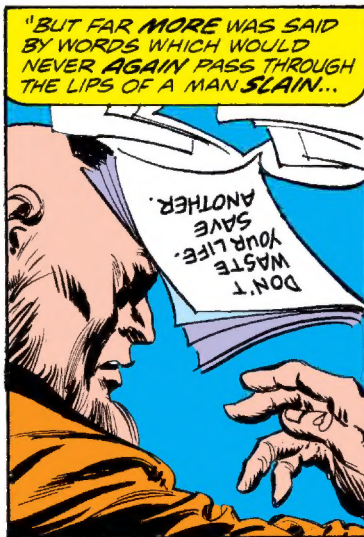


"--AND WATCHED AS THE MAN FELL FORWARD THROUGH SWIFT DEATH... HIS FACE STRIKING THE PAVEMENT...



"...AND HIS BACK, REVEALING THE DRAGON. IT LEERED AT ME THROUGH THE BLOOD IT HAD SPILLED...

"...AND SAID MUCH IN ITS SILENCE.



"BUT FAR MORE WAS SAID BY WORDS WHICH WOULD NEVER AGAIN PASS THROUGH THE LIPS OF A MAN SLAIN...

DON'T WASTE YOUR LIFE. SAVE ANOTHER.



"THE DAGGER WAS OF A KIND OFTEN WIELDED BY MY FATHER'S CULT OF SI-FAN ASSASSINS...

"...AND WAS MEANT TO LEER THROUGH MY BLOOD.



"THE ROPE ENDS.

"I BRACE MY FOOT AGAINST THE BUILDING...



"...AND KICK, PROPELLING MYSELF LIKE A PENDULUM...

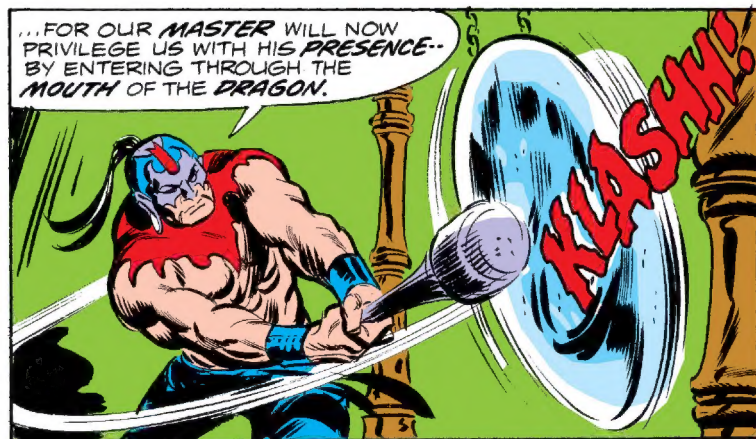
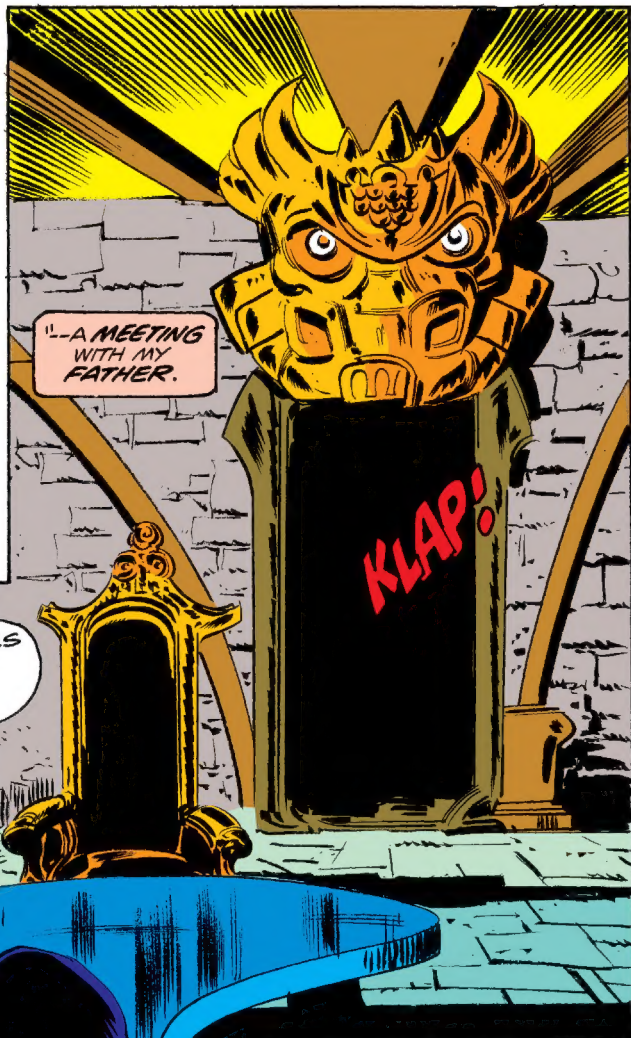
"...SWINGING BACK--



"--THEN FORWARD.



"THE OFFICE IS DARK... THE DOOR VISIBLE...





YOU HAVE BEEN CONVENED TO *LISTEN* TO ME. THEREFORE, YOU HAVE *NOT* BEEN CONVENED TO VIOLATE YOUR VEIL OF *SILENCE*.

YOU WILL *REMEMBER* EVERY WORD I *SPEAK*...

...WORDS WHICH ARE TO BE *CHERISHED*. AND WHOSE *SANCTITY* IS BESTOWED BY THE VEHICLE OF MY *VOICE*.



YOU ALREADY *KNOW* THAT THE GRACE OF MY PRESENCE WILL TOLERATE NOTHING *LESS* THAN SILENCE, ATTENTIVENESS, AND *OBEEDIENCE*.

YOU WILL NOW KNOW THAT THE *SUBJECT* OF THIS MEETING IS MY *DAUGHTER*-- SHE WHOM I HAVE NAMED *FAH LO SUEE*, AND SHE WHOM I HAVE NOT *SEEN* FOR A TIME MEASURED IN *YEARS*.

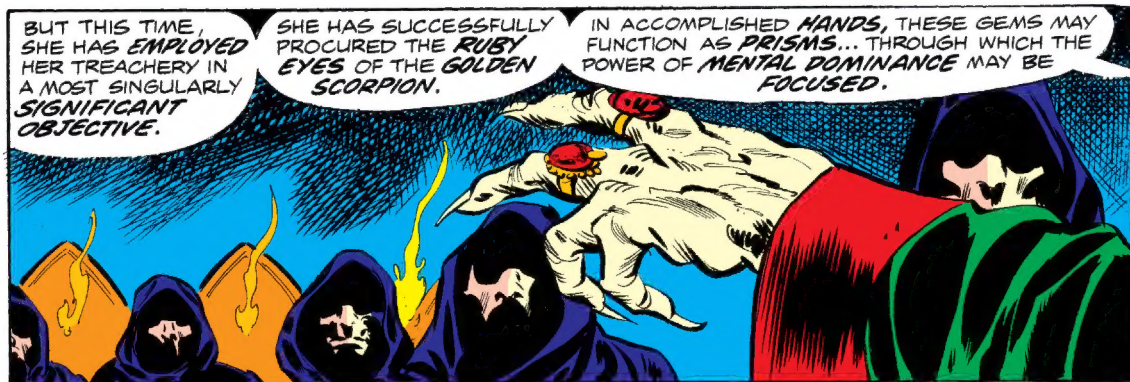
NOTHING HAS *CHANGED* BETWEEN MY *DAUGHTER* AND MYSELF.



AS *BEFORE*, SHE REFUSES TO *GREET* ME AS *DAUGHTER*. SHE *GREET*S FATHER. AS *BEFORE*, SHE PROFANES THE *HONOR* WHICH IS MY *RIGHT*...

...AND WHICH I PRESENTED TO HER BY INSTIGATING HER *BIRTH*.

AS *BEFORE*, THE *GUISE* OF HER PROFANITY IS *DEFIANCE* AND *TREACHERY*.



BUT THIS TIME, SHE HAS *EMPLOYED* HER *TREACHERY* IN A MOST SINGULARLY *SIGNIFICANT* *OBJECTIVE*.

SHE HAS SUCCESSFULLY PROCURED THE *RUBY EYES* OF THE *GOLDEN SCORPION*.

IN ACCOMPLISHED *HANDS*, THESE GEMS MAY FUNCTION AS *PRISMS*... THROUGH WHICH THE POWER OF *MENTAL DOMINANCE* MAY BE *FOCUSED*.

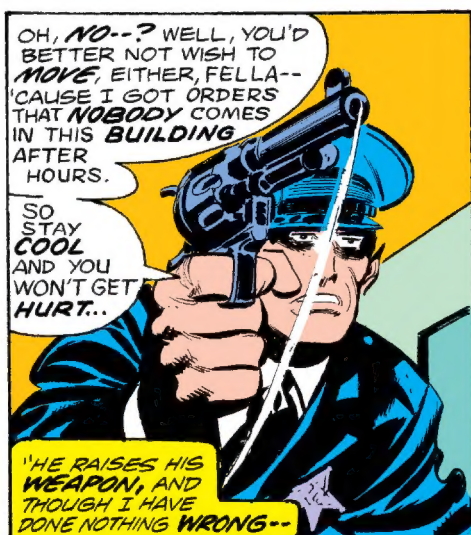
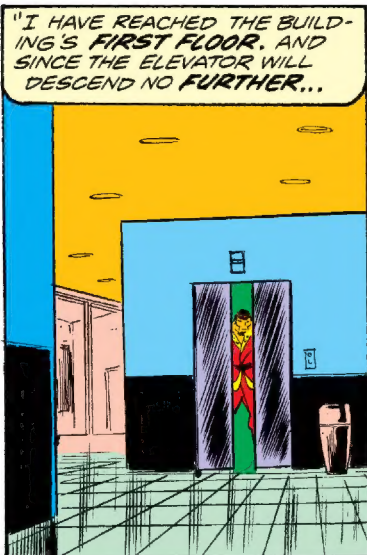


SHOULD SHE ATTEMPT TO EXERT CONTROL OR INFLUENCE OVER *YOU* WITH THE USE OF OF THESE *RUBY EYES*...

...YOU ARE ADVISED TO KEEP ONE THING IN *MIND*...



--THE POWER OF MY *EYES*.





"I DISPATCH THE ELEVATOR
TO A HIGHER FLOOR..."



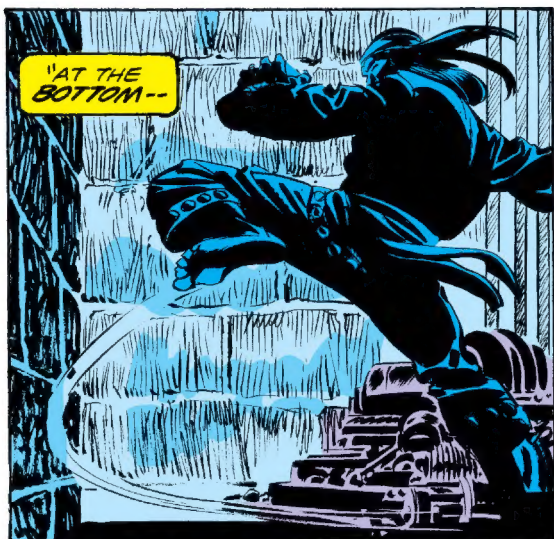
"...SO THAT
WHEN THE
DOORS ARE
FORCED OPEN--

"--THE SHAFT
IS EMPTY."

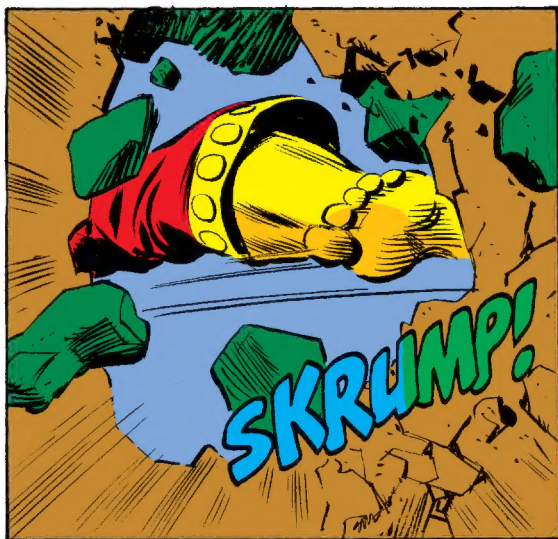


"LIKE THE ROPE BEFORE..."

"...A GREASY CABLE NOW
PROVIDES ME WITH DOWN-
WARD PROGRESS."



"AT THE
BOTTOM--



SKRUMP!



"AH! IT IS AS I HAD EXPECT-
ED..."



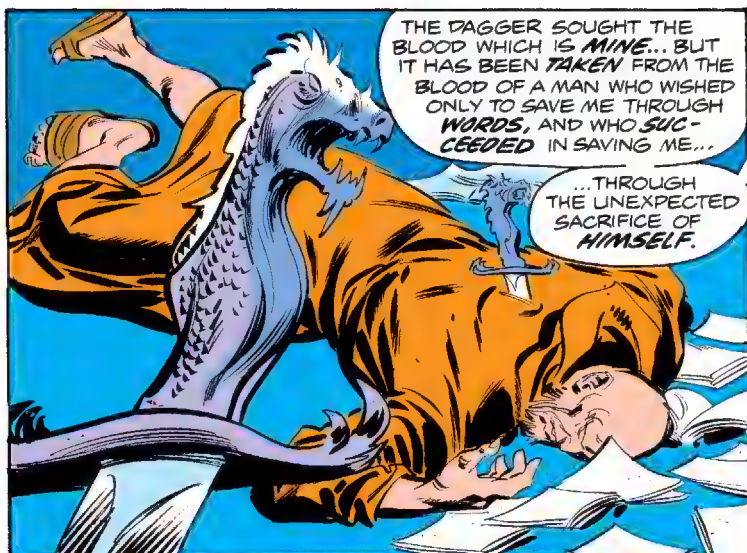
"ALTHOUGH I HAVE
CHOSEN TO AVOID THE
SI-FANS STATIONED
OUTSIDE THIS MOST
UNLIKELY OF BUILDINGS..."



"...I HAVE NEVERTHELESS PENE-
TRATED A SECTION OF MY
FATHER'S SECRET NEW YORK
HEADQUARTERS, A PLACE WHOSE
EVERY DESIGN IS INTENDED TO
EVOKE MEMORIES OF OLD CHINA..."

"FOR ME--NOW--IT EVOKES
NOTHING BUT DEATH... AND
A DAGGER GUISED AS A
DRAGON."





THE DAGGER SOUGHT THE BLOOD WHICH IS **MINE...** BUT IT HAS BEEN **TAKEN** FROM THE BLOOD OF A MAN WHO WISHED ONLY TO SAVE ME THROUGH **WORDS**, AND WHO **SUCCEEDED** IN SAVING ME...

...THROUGH THE UNEXPECTED SACRIFICE OF **HIMSELF.**



I HAVE GONE THROUGH MUCH TROUBLE TO **COME** HERE, MY FATHER, FOR I WOULD **SPEAK** WITH YOU OF THIS DAGGER.

OF THIS **DEATH.**

OF THIS **MAN.**



I HAVE GUIDED YOU THROUGH YOUR **YOUTH**, SHANG-CHI. I HAVE **TRAINED** YOU, AND **TUTORED** YOU, IN SO **DOING**, I HAVE **SPOKEN** TO YOU AT GREAT **LENGTH.**

I HAVE BEEN REWARDED ONLY WITH **TREACHERY.**

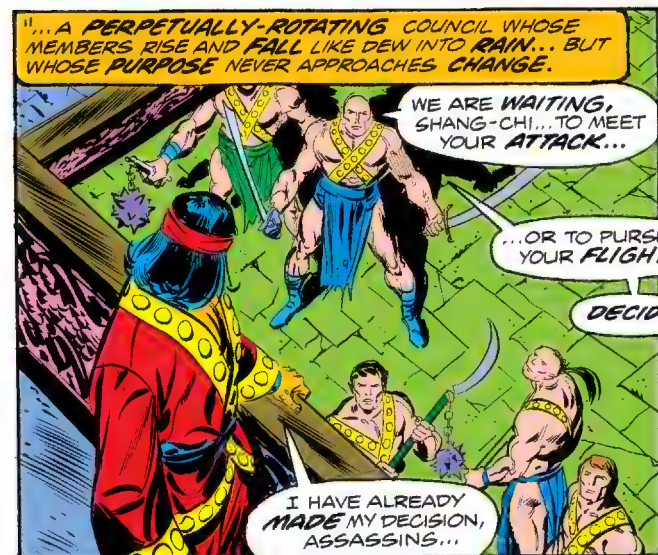
KLAP

THE TIME FOR WORDS HAS **DIED.**



"AT MY FATHER'S SIGNAL THEY RISE AS **ONE...** SLOWLY... CEREMONIOUSLY... SHEDDING THEIR ROBES TO REVEAL THE **TRUE** NATURE OF THIS COUNCIL OF **SEVEN**-- A COUNCIL DIFFERENT FROM THE ONE I HAVE FACED IN THE **PAST...** *

* SEE **GIANT-SIZE M.O.K.F.#1.**
--LEN



"...A **PERPETUALLY-ROTATING** COUNCIL WHOSE MEMBERS RISE AND FALL LIKE DEW INTO **RAIN...** BUT WHOSE **PURPOSE** NEVER APPROACHES **CHANGE.**

WE ARE **WAITING**, SHANG-CHI... TO MEET YOUR **ATTACK...**

...OR TO PURSUE YOUR **FLIGHT.**

DECIDE.

I HAVE ALREADY **MADE** MY DECISION, ASSASSINS...



THIS NIGHT I WILL **SPEAK** WITH MY **FATHER--**



--NO MATTER
WHAT FORMS OF
DEATH SEEK TO
SILENCE ME!!

"I MUST DIVORCE
MYSELF FROM
ANGER NOW..."

"-- FOR THE ONE WITH THE
BO RUSHES SWIFTLY.



"I REACH FOR THE SLASH-
ING BO WITH MY HANDS--



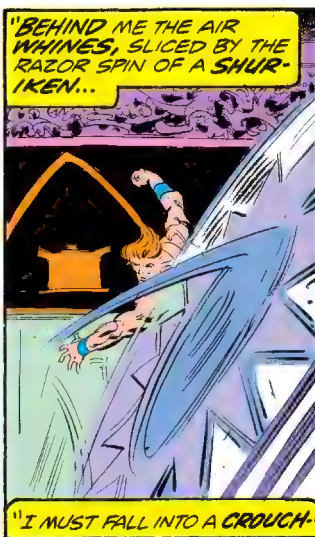
"-- AND SEVER IT WITH AN UP-
WARD KICK.

"THE MANEUVER HAS
BEEN NECESSARY..."



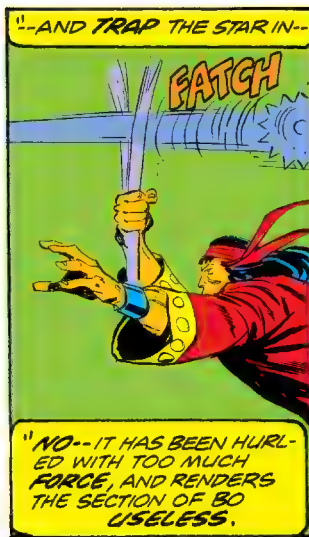
"... TO BLOCK HIS SECOND SLASH.

TWAK!



"BEHIND ME THE AIR
WHINES, SLICED BY THE
RAZOR SPIN OF A SHUR-
IKEN..."

"I MUST FALL INTO A CROUCH--



"-- AND TRAP THE STAR IN--

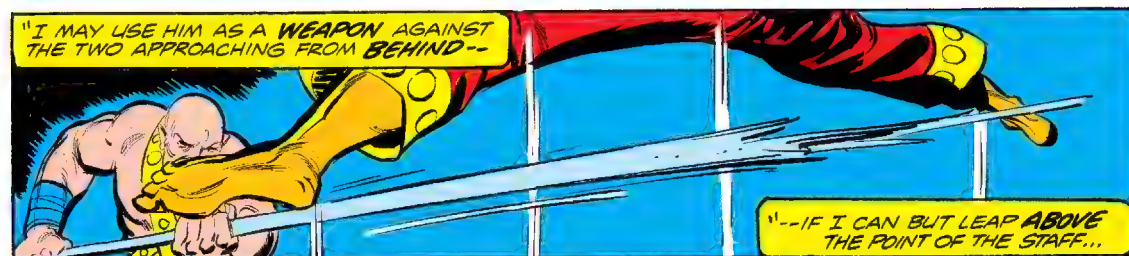
FATCH

"NO-- IT HAS BEEN HURL-
ED WITH TOO MUCH
FORCE, AND RENDERS
THE SECTION OF BO
USELESS.



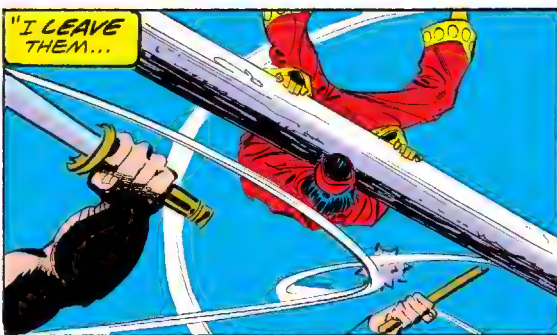
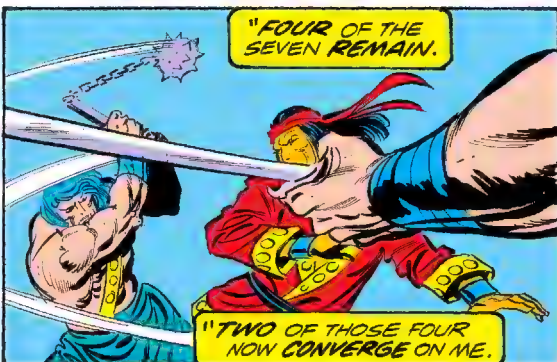
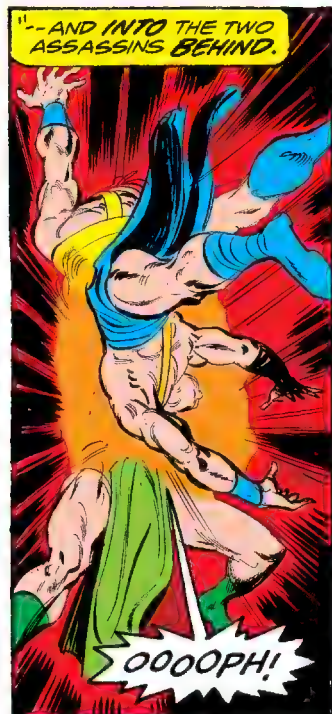
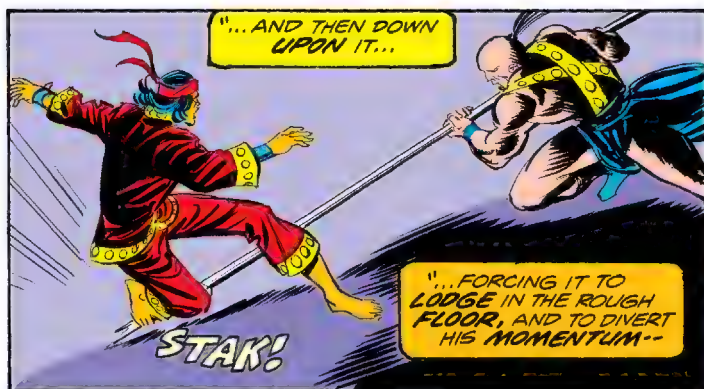
"THE FIRST ONE LUNGES AGAIN, THE
SPLINTERED END OF HIS BO NOW AS
LETHAL AS A SPEAR..."

HYAAAAHH!!



"I MAY USE HIM AS A WEAPON AGAINST
THE TWO APPROACHING FROM BEHIND--

"-- IF I CAN BUT LEAP ABOVE
THE POINT OF THE STAFF..."





--YAAHHH!!

BRATCH!



"THE BEAM SPLITS..."

"...AND EACH OF THE HALVES FALLS ONE OF THE TWO BELOW."

"BUT EVEN AS THEY FALL, I CHANNEL THE MOMENTUM OF MY STAMP-KICK--"



"--INTO A TWISTING PLUMMET--"

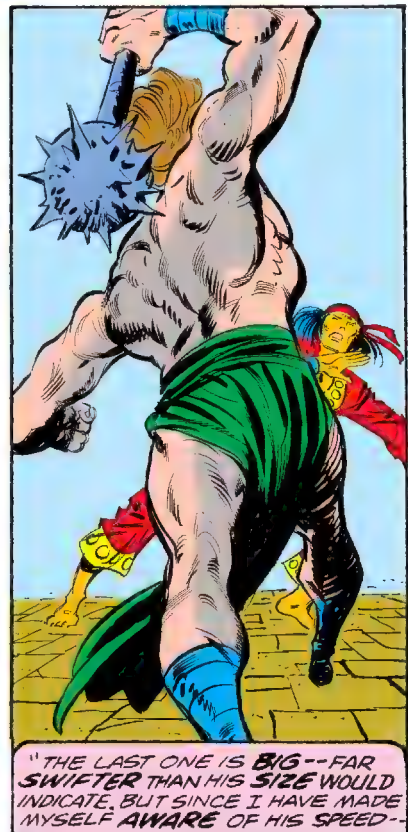
GHWO!

"--WHICH ENDS IN A SECOND STAMP-KICK."

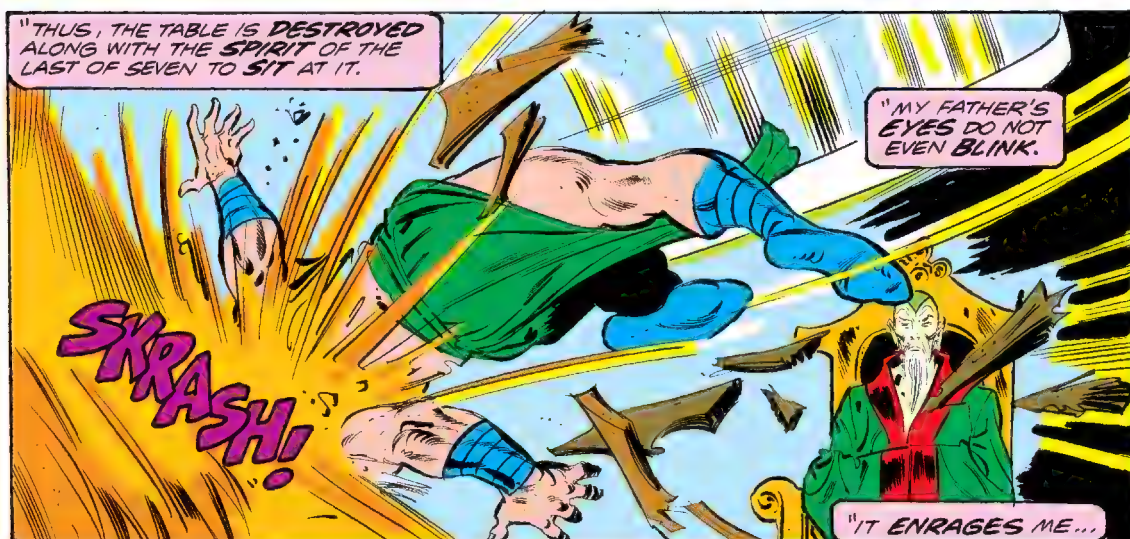
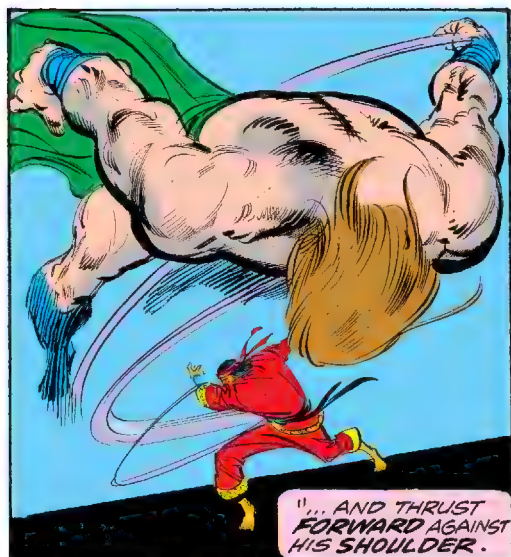
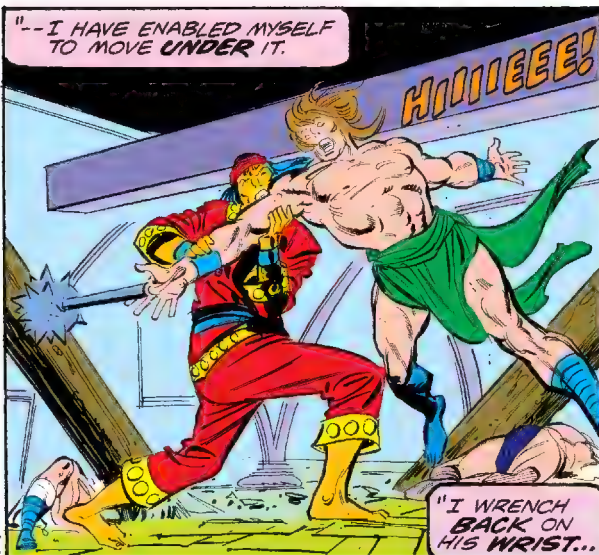


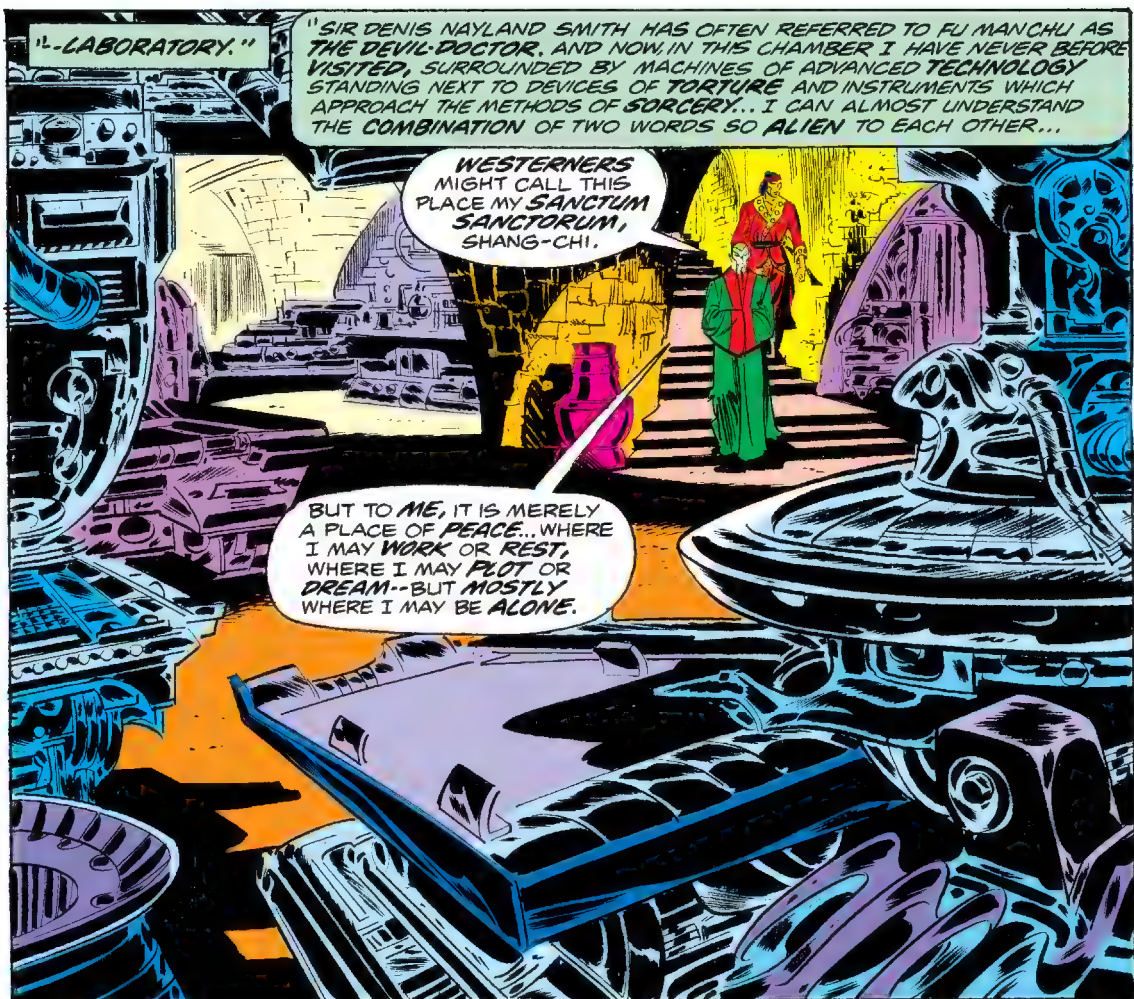
"STILL MY FATHER WATCHES, AND ALTHOUGH HE IS AWARE THAT HIS COUNCIL OF SEVEN HAS BEEN REDUCED TO ONE... HE REMAINS STRIPPED OF ANY EMOTION..."

"...IMMUNE EVEN TO FEAR."



"THE LAST ONE IS BIG--FAR SWIFTER THAN HIS SIZE WOULD INDICATE, BUT SINCE I HAVE MADE MYSELF AWARE OF HIS SPEED--"





"-LABORATORY."

"SIR DENIS NAYLAND SMITH HAS OFTEN REFERRED TO FU MANCHU AS THE DEVIL-DOCTOR, AND NOW, IN THIS CHAMBER I HAVE NEVER BEFORE VISITED, SURROUNDED BY MACHINES OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY STANDING NEXT TO DEVICES OF TORTURE AND INSTRUMENTS WHICH APPROACH THE METHODS OF SORCERY... I CAN ALMOST UNDERSTAND THE COMBINATION OF TWO WORDS SO ALIEN TO EACH OTHER..."

WESTERNERS MIGHT CALL THIS PLACE MY SANCTUM SANCTORUM, SHANG-CHI.

BUT TO ME, IT IS MERELY A PLACE OF PEACE... WHERE I MAY WORK OR REST, WHERE I MAY PLOT OR DREAM--BUT MOSTLY WHERE I MAY BE ALONE.

BUT I FORGET MYSELF, SHANG-CHI. YOU HAVE COME HERE TO SPEAK ON OTHER MATTERS...

...MATTERS WHICH DEEPLY TROUBLE YOU...

...MATTERS FED INTO YOUR MIND BY MY ENEMY SMITH, AND OTHERS OF THE OUTSIDE WORLD...

I CAN NO LONGER SPEAK TO YOU AS A FATHER WOULD SPEAK TO HIS SON, SHANG-CHI. FOR I CANNOT THINK OF YOU AS MY SON...

I WILL CONFESS SOMETHING TO YOU: YOUR BETRAYAL HAS MADE OF ME A VERY LONELY MAN. THE FACT SADDENS ME...

...AND IN MY SADNESS LIES THE SEVERITY OF YOUR BETRAYAL...

YOU SEE, THROUGH CONSTANT USAGE OF MY *ELIXIR VITAE*-- MY *SERUM OF IMMORTALITY*-- I HAVE LIVED THROUGH *MANY YEARS*...

...*MORE YEARS* THAN YOU CAN *GUESS*, SHANG-CHI.

YEARS WHICH HAVE BEEN FILLED WITH *VAST* EXPERIENCE...

YEARS IN WHICH I HAVE *DONE* EVERYTHING, AND *FELT* EVERYTHING-- UNTIL THERE IS NOW NOTHING LEFT TO *FEEL*-- UNTIL *EMOTION* HAS BECOME NO MORE THAN A *CONQUERED ENEMY*. THUS, MY *SADNESS* IN THE FACE OF YOUR BETRAYAL IS *HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT*.

IF YOU NO LONGER *CARE* ABOUT LIFE, WHY DO YOU *CONTINUE* YOUR *OWN*?

APATHY IS A FAR CRY FROM *DEATH*, SHANG-CHI. BESIDES, I *DO CARE*-- BUT NECESSARILY ON A *GRANDIOSE* SCALE, FOR MY YEARS OF LIFE AND EXPERIENCE *TRANSCEND* THE TRIVIAL... AND NOTHING LESS THAN THE *WORLD* CAN INTEREST ME.

I SEEK TO *CHANGE* THE WORLD-- TO *RE-STORE* IT TO THE GLORY OF THE *PAST*, TO A TIME *FAR BETTER* THAN *TODAY*.

HOW WAS THE WORLD *BETTERED* BY FORCING ME TO BELIEVE I HAD *SLAIN* DR. PERTRIE--?

A TEST OF YOUR *LOYALTY*, SHANG-CHI--A TEST YOU *FAILED* UPON HEARING THE *FIRST WORDS* FROM SMITH'S TWISTED MOUTH.

YOU SEE, I HAD HOPED YOU WOULD *AID* ME IN ATTAINING MY GOALS...

INSTEAD, YOU HAVE ADOPTED *DIFFERENT GOALS*-- AND IN SO DOING, YOU HAVE ERECTED BETWEEN US A *CONFLICT OF IDEALS*. YOU THINK ME *CRUEL* AND YOURSELF *GENTLE*-- THAT I AM *EVIL* AND YOU *GOOD*-- THAT I AM THE *VILLAIN* TO YOUR SANCTIMONIOUS *HERO*.

BUT WHO ARE *YOU* TO JUDGE ME-- TO JUDGE *ANYONE*-- AS *EVIL*? DOES IT *ENHANCE* THE RISING AND ADVANCING OF YOUR *SPIRIT*? OR HAS YOUR SPIRIT RISEN TO SUCH HEIGHTS THAT YOU NOW BELIEVE YOURSELF TO BE *GOD*-- CAPABLE OF EXERCISING *CELESTIAL JUDGEMENT* ON ALL THOSE *BELOW* YOU...?

THERE ARE *MANY* PATHS, SHANG-CHI...

...DO NOT *CONDEMN* ME FOR FOLLOWING A PATH *DIFFERENT* FROM YOURS. THEY ALL LEAD INEVITABLY TO *DEATH*-- AND *ALL MEN* ARE EQUALLY REWARDED FOR THEIR ACTIONS IN LIFE WITH THE *SAME* DEATH.

WILL *YOUR* DEATH BE ANY BETTER THAN *MINE*...? BEFORE YOU *ANSWER*, SHANG-CHI, CONSIDER *THIS*...

...TO ME, *YOU* ARE *EVIL*. TO *ME*, YOU ARE THE *VILLAIN*... AND I THE *HERO*.

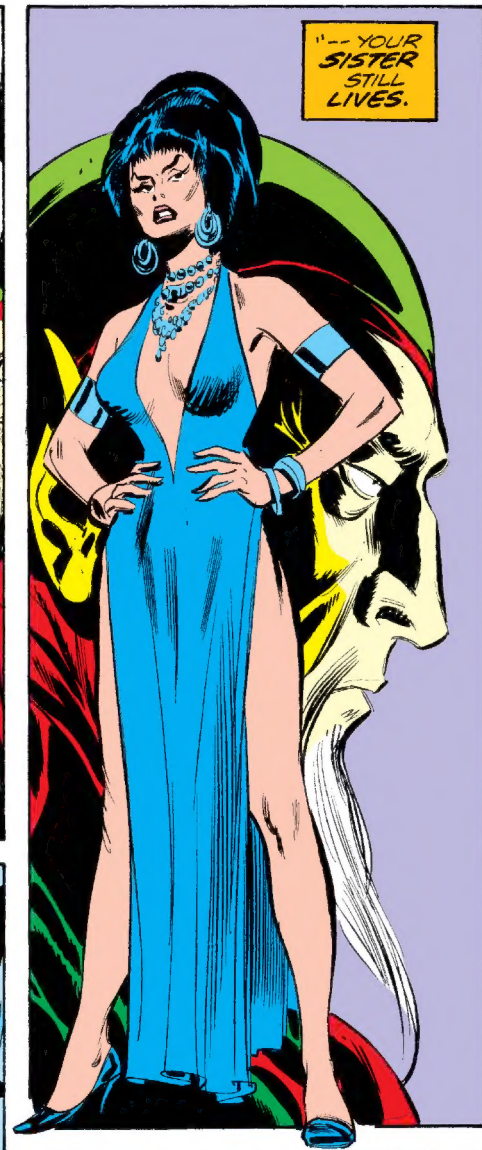


YOU HAVE **KILLED** A MAN TONIGHT--AND **STILL** YOU **DENY** THAT YOU ARE ANY-THING BUT **EVIL**--?!

IT IS TRUE I DO NOT HESITATE TO PLACE THE VALUE OF **LIFE** BENEATH THE VALUE OF MY **GOALS**...

...BUT I KILLED **NO ONE** THIS NIGHT, SHANG-CHI. YOU SEE --

"-- SO, TOO, DID **FAH LO SUEE** ESCAPE, MOMENTS BEFORE MY EX-**PLLOSIVE** DETONATED. SHE LEFT THE PYRAMID WITH THE **RUBY EYES** IN HER **POSSESSION**..."

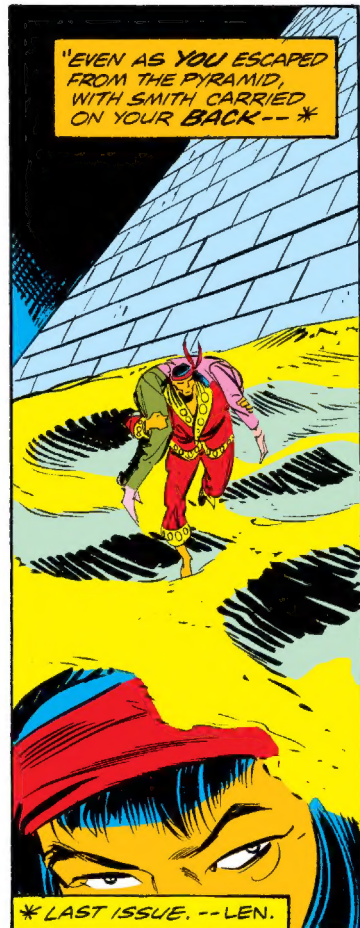


"-- YOUR **SISTER** STILL **LIVES**."



...AND NOW **CONTROLS** A GROWING SEGMENT OF MY **SI-FAN**.

IT WAS **SHE** WHO ORDERED THE **SI-FAN** TO ASSASSINATE YOU TONIGHT, AND IT WAS UNDER **HER** ORDERS THAT THAT THE ASSASSIN **FAILED** AND INSTEAD MURDERED THE **INNOCENT** YOU **SPEAK** OF.



"EVEN AS YOU ESCAPED FROM THE PYRAMID, WITH SMITH CARRIED ON YOUR **BACK**-- *

* LAST ISSUE. -- LEN.



YOU **SEE**, SHANG-CHI... YOU ARE NOT THE **ONLY** ONE TO SPRING FROM MY LOINS SEEKING TO **DESTROY** ME...



I WARN YOU NOW, SHANG-CHI-- THERE WILL BE WAR.

WAR BETWEEN TWO FIERCE FACTIONS OF SI-FAN-- BETWEEN TWO GLOBE-SPANNING ARMIES-- A WAR OF BLOODSHED UNRIVALED SINCE THE ANCIENT TONG WARS... A WAR BETWEEN FATHER AND DAUGHTER... DEVIL-DOCTOR AND DAUGHTER OF HELL--!



AND YOU WILL BE CAUGHT BETWEEN IT, SHANG-CHI!! HELPLESS--!

UNLESS YOU END IT BEFORE IT BEGINS--!



UNLESS YOU END IT RIGHT NOW--

-- BY KILLING ME, MY SON.



NO--! I CANNOT YET MAKE THAT DECISION. I WISH ONLY TO SLAY EVIL...NOT YOU...!



THEN LEAVE ME.

BUT KNOW THIS: NOTHING HAS CHANGED BETWEEN US.

NOTHING.



"I CARRY HIS LAST WORDS INTO THE COLD NIGHT, AND I WALK LONG IN THEIR ECHO ... UNTIL I DECIDE, AT LAST, THAT ONCE AGAIN--

--MY FATHER HAS LIED TO ME.

NEXT: A DYNAMIC NEW DIRECTION in: **DEATH-DEAL!** FOR SHANG-CHI

Shadowcat

